

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Hungary	REPORT		25X1
SUBJECT	Munitions Factory at Sirok	DATE DISTR.	, 22 April 1955	
		NO. OF PAGES	6	25X1
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD	
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	This is UNEVALUATED Information	

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 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. Location

- a. The munitions factory of Sirok operates under the cover name Mátravideki Szinesfémüvek (Nonferrous Metal Works of the Mátra Region), and in official communications it is referred to as "9384". It was built during the period 1951-1953. It is situated within the triangle formed by the road from Sirok to Bakta and the Kigyós Patak Stream. The factory is located 1,500 m. south-east of Sirok.
- b. All the buildings of the enterprise have flat roofs. Grass and bushes have been planted on the roofs, affording the buildings an extraordinarily good camouflage. Many of the old trees, which were part of the forest located here at one time, have been left standing around the buildings. Great emphasis is placed on the careful camouflage of this area. Thus, the flue from the boiler house and the power plant carries off the smoke at an angle of about 40 degrees over the stone quarry at elevation point 174.

2. Means of Transportation

The enterprise has its own industrial siding, which is four kilometers long. The plant is accessible by highway from Sirok, and from Tarnaszentmária. (See sketch)

3. Personnel

a. Management:

Director General of the factory is Kálmán Lakatos, who used to be a worker in the munitions factory and in the Mátyás Rákosi Works at Budapest-Csepel.

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Technical Director: Engineer Péter Balla, who used to work for the Hungarian Steel Works (Magyar Acélárúgyár).

Chief distributor of production: Vilmos Somos.

Responsible for production: Vince Hamar.

b. Workers:

- (1) There are 1,500 laborers working in three shifts at 0700, 1500, and 2300 hours. The 1500 and 2300-hour shifts do not have capacity work forces. The workers live in Sirok and in the newly constructed dwellings east of Sirok. Some workers come from the surroundings of Eger.
- (2) South of the factory entrance and northeast of the Tarna stream dwellings were built (north of the roads and the railroad bridge over the Tarna Stream). These dwellings consist of five 70 x 20 m. three-story houses and 52 one-story two-family houses. Further expansion of this project is in progress.
- (3) Of the 1,500 workers, 400 are technicians, 700 skilled workers, and 400 unskilled laborers. 60 percent of the workers are women. The employment of women is on the increase. Ten percent of the workers are members of the Communist Party, twelve percent are Party candidates. It is estimated that 5-6 percent of the workers are loyal to the present Régime.

4. Production.

- a. The factory produces small-arm ammunition for rifles, submachine guns, and pistols. Customers are the Hungarian Army, the USSR, and Orbit countries.
- b. The factory also produces practice hand grenades as well as armed hand grenades and stick hand grenades.
- c. It was learned that in 1954 the factory started to produce ammunition for the new 7.62-mm. carbine. The cartridges are much shorter than the rifle cartridges or the submachine-gun cartridges. More powerful smokeless powder is said to be used. Nothing is known about the quantity of production, however, at least 8-10 carloads of ammunition leave the factory daily. (One carload equals 10,000 kg.)
- d. The enterprise fulfilled its plan quota for the second half of 1953 only by 82 percent because of lack of workers. It was not possible to bring the work force of the enterprise up to full strength because there were no dwelling units available to accommodate the additional workers.

5. Raw Materials.

Raw materials are brought in by rail from the direction of Budapest. Several freight bills of lading were seen, showing Pét, Peremarton, and Füzfő as points of dispatch. These freight cars always had black flags attached to them. The stickers also had black margins and "Use Care in Shunting" was written in large letters on the sides of the freight cars. Coal is brought in from Salgotarján, from the north. The factory has an average reserve of 15-20 carloads of coal and 4-5 carloads of coke. The coke is needed for the softening furnaces of the tube-drawing and nonferrous metal enterprises. There has never been a shortage of raw materials.

6. Security.

- a. The factory is guarded by a 60-man police unit, which is part of the so-called blue AVH (State Security Authority, now BPO [sic]). The guards are equipped with submachine guns and rifles. The patrols are very active day and night inside the factory area and along the fence. This fence is 2.8 m. high and is attached to reinforced concrete posts. On top of the fence, there are three rows of barbed wire.

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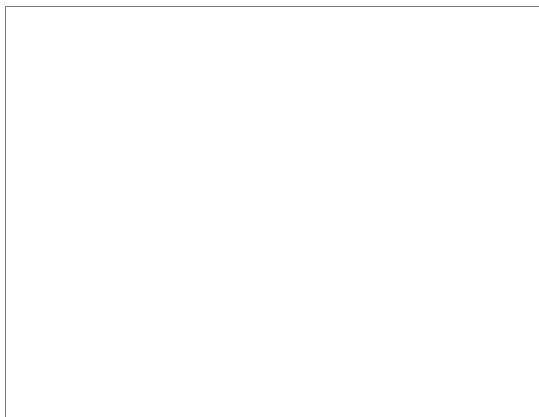
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- b. At night the area is brilliantly lit up with electric lights. Watch-dogs are taken along on patrols. The guards are relieved every four hours. Then they are in an alert status for four hours. Thereafter, they are off duty for 16 hours. They have one full day off each week. The factory has its own fire-fighting service and has chemical firefighting equipment. Air-raid defense training is carried on all the time. Once a month all the workers are given a surprise air-raid drill. Extensive bunker-construction work is going on under elevation point 174. The bunker is to afford shelter for all the workers.

7. Subordination.

The factory is directly subordinate to the war-industry group of the Defense Ministry in Budapest. With regard to raw material supply, Factory 9384 is subordinate to the administrative district of the Industrial Directorate of Miskolc.



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Legend to the sketch:

1. One-story gatekeeper's building, 2 x 3 m. Automatic time clock for the workers' time cards. Those entering and leaving must show their credentials. The workers have passes bound in red linen; they also have an aluminum tag bearing the number of the part of the factory in which they work. This aluminum tag is worn in the button hole or attached to the chest. The workers are only permitted to enter their own sections of the enterprise.
2. A 6 x 10 m. two-story building for the guards on duty.
3. A 60 x 15 m. two-story barracks building for the police. The office of the commandant is in the southwest corner of the first floor.
4. A 70 x 25 m. three-story cultural building in which the factory kitchen and the dining room are located. Here the workers can get a noon meal or a night meal of satisfactory quality for 2 forint a day.
5. A 70 x 25 m. three-story administration building. On the first floor, there are the personnel and billing departments, and the stock-control department; the offices of the technical and political management are on the upper floors.
6. A barbed-wire fence, attached to concrete posts. The fence separates the administrative section from the factory proper.
7. Boiler room and power installation. The need of the factory for electric current is satisfied by the area's closed circuit (Landeskreisleitung). The factory's own power installation, which is operated by steam turbines, is only for reserve purposes. The boiler room is constantly in operation for the purpose of supplying central heating and hot water.
8. A 50 x 20 m. workshop building, for the plant mechanics, carpenters, lathe operators, etc.
9. A 15 - 70 m. one-story storage building with a side ramp for the raw materials. The major part of the raw materials, however, is not stored in this place but in the storage rooms of the individual factory sections.
10. A 75 x 30 m. three-story building; cartridge plant
11. A 40 x 20 m. one-story building; ball press (Kugelpresse), lead foundry.
12. A 50 x 20 m. one-story building; the tube-drawing plant.
13. A 50 x 20 m. building; the detonator plant.
14. A 50 x 20 m. shop; the chemical plant.
15. A 50 x 25 m. two-story laboratory and chemical plant.
16. 50 x 20 m. ammunition-loading plant. In this part of the factory, only automatic machines of Soviet make are used.
17. 60 x 25 m. pressing shop. Here the various types of cartridge magazines are pressed.
18. 70 x 25 m. nonferrous-metal shop. Assembly, turning, and polishing of the cartridges is done here. This part of the factory also has only automatic machines.
19. 70 x 10 m. loading ramp and finished products depot.
20. 50 x 15 m. two-story turning, etching, and polishing shop.

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21. 50 x 20 m. hand-grenade production plant.
22. 60 x 30 m. two-story automatic ammunition-loading plant; also has automatic machines exclusively.
23. 40 x 15 m. final assembly and wood-turning shop.
24. 50 x 20 m. one-story packing room. From this part of the factory, the packed cases of ammunition are delivered to the finished products depot by way of a conveyor belt.
25. Coal and coke depot.
26. Garage.
27. Well-house and water pump. The factory receives its water supply from 8 wells, 45 m. deep on the average. The water is pumped into a subterranean reservoir by means of an electric motor. The reservoir is located at an unknown place of the mountain side. From there it flows through the factory water system to the dwellings and to the factory.
28. Power line
29. POL depot.

Annex: Munitions Factory at Sirok (1 page).

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Annex: Munitions Factory at Sirok

